(c) whether Government are considering to repeal Essential Commodities Act, since it becomes redundant once the sector is opened for private participation;

(d) whether any study has been conducted as done in China, Brazil and Thailand where retail sector has been opened; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Duty of polyester and acrylic fibres

2233. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that man made fibres had to pay no custom duty while polyester and acrylic fibres had to pay 10 per cent duty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country's present textile and garment export are cotton dominated although there was a higher global demand for polyester products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) (a) All man made fibres including polyester and acrylic fibres attract basic customs duty at the rate of 15 per cent.

(b) and (c) Exports of cotton textile items and garments and man made textile items and garments during 2004-2005 was as under:

Sl.No.	Products	Value of exports (in million US $) (Provisional)
1.	Cotton textile items and garments	7770
2.	Man made textile items and garments	2644

Globally consumption of man made textile items is higher than those of cotton based textile items.